

Application No.: 10/606,376

Docket No.: JCLA11125

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action objects the specification and claims 1-3, 5, 7 and 8. The Office Action rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano (US 4,916,580) in view of Amano (JP 04033202A). Applicants have amended the specification and claims 4-10 and canceled claims 1-3 to overcome the objection and the rejection. Applicants further newly added claims 13-15. After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 4-15 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Office Action Objections and Rejections

The limitation added in claim 4 is as shown in the drawings of Figs. 17-19. The newly added claims 13-15 are as shown in Figs. 7-10.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 4-12 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sano (US 4,916,580) in view of Amano (JP 04033202A) because a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established by the Office Action.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), each of three requirements must be met. First, the reference or references, taken alone or combined, must teach or suggest each and every element in the claims. Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of

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ordinary skilled in the art, to combine the references in a manner resulting in the claimed invention. Third, a reasonable expectation of success must exist. Moreover, each of the three requirements must “be found in the prior art, and not be based on applicant’s disclosure.” See M.P.E.P. 2143, 8th ed., February 2003.

The present invention is in general related a back light module as claim 4 recites:

Claim 4. A back light module, comprising:
a frame set comprising a plurality of frames ;
a plurality of lamp tube modules, wherein *each lamp tube module is disposed inside one of the frames correspondingly* and comprises at least two U-shaped lamp tubes; and
a diffusion plate positioned inside the frame set above said lamp tubes.

Sano discloses a backlight device comprising a reflector 4, a diffusion plate 1 and a U-shape lamp 3. The office Action points out although Sano did not disclose a plurality of lamp tubes, Amano discloses that. In Amano’s reference, a plurality of lamp tubes are disposed inside one frame, as shown in Fig. 1. However, in claim 4 of the present invention, the lamp tube modules are disposed inside the frame set, wherein each of the lamp tube module is disposed inside one of the frames of the frame set. Because the back light module has a plurality of the lamp tube modules in the frames, the lamp tube modules can be positioned in a multitude of ways and thus increasing the number of possible design choice. Moreover, each damaged lamp tube module can be replaced individually because each lamp tube module and its frame can be replaced individually from the bottom of the back light module without moving the diffusion plate.

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Therefore, Sano in view of Amano does not teach or suggest that the back light module has a frame set having a plurality of frames, and each lamp tube module is disposed inside one of the frames correspondingly so that the references combined do not each and every element in the claim 4. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 4 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 5-12 patently define over the prior art as well.

Applicants further newly added claims 13-15.

The present invention is also related a back light module as claim 13 recites:

Claim 13. A back light module, comprising:

a frame;

at least two U-shaped lamp tubes disposed inside the frame, wherein *the two U-shaped lamp tubes are respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame*; and

a diffusion plate positioned inside the frame above said lamp tubes.

The back light module having at least two U-shaped lamp tubes respectively positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame can be applied to a large size display panel. Since the U-shaped lamp tubes are positioned at two sides of the frame and do not cross the center of the frame, the length of each lamp tube does not too long so that the lamp tube are not liable to break or crack.

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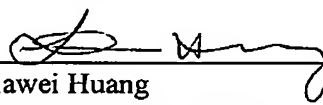
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 4-15 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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